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But alas, notwithstanding all these conclusive evidences of evolution from a still earlier terrestrial type the Triassic forms offer no conclusive evidence of the origin of the order. The author can see no especial rhynchocephalian characters in the ichthyosaurs, so strongly urged by Baur, and he rejects the conclusions of McGregor that the ichthyosaurs are nearly related to the phytosaurs, and in both these conclusions the writer concurs. He believes that the ichthyosaurs arose from very primitive or the most primitive reptiles. Hay, recently in his extensive work on the turtles has reached the same conclusion for that order of reptiles. In other words, the results of both these authors, based upon exhaustive studies, go to support the phylogenic views expressed by Cope in his *Factors of Evolution*, published not long before his death. It seems to the writer they also destroy every shred of support remaining for the primary division of the reptilia into two chief classes, and the writer further protests against the use of the terms "Synapsida" and "Diapsida" as practically synonyms of Cope's Synaptosauria and Archosauria, proposed and sustained by him years before his death.

Briefly stated in conclusion, Dr. Merriam gives a full discussion of the geological and geographical distribution of the ichthyosaurs, their classification (he accepts Baur's two families only, the Mixosauridae and Ichthyosauridae), evolution, and structure, with especial reference to the Triassic forms, which are fully described so far as the known material has permitted. The work is well illustrated by text figures and plates.

Both the author and the University of California are to be congratulated upon the issuance of this volume, and not the least is the university to be commended for the inauguration of the handsome series of quarto memoirs of which this is the beginning; other institutions might well profit by the example.

S. W. W.

Skeletal Remains Suggesting or Attributed to Early Man in North America. By ALEŠ HADLIČKA. Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin No. 38, Washington, D. C., 1907.

This is a very careful, dispassionate review of the skeletal remains found at New Orleans, Quebec, Natchez, Lake Monroe (Florida) Soda, Creek, Charleston, Galaveras, Rock Bluff, Penon, Trenton, Burlington, Riverview, Lansing, Osprey, Hanson Landing, and Nebraska. The discussion of the Nebraska "loess man," which is based on personal examination of the grounds as well as study of the remains, is the climacteric point of interest, because of the low, retreating foreheads of some of the skulls. Hadlička's general conclusion (p. 98) is as follows:

The various finds of human remains in North America for which geological antiquity has been claimed have been thus briefly passed under review. It is seen that, irrespective of other considerations, in every instance where enough of the bones is preserved for comparison the somatological evidence bears witness against the geological antiquity of the remains and for their close affinity to or identity with those of the modern Indian. Under these circumstances but one conclusion is justified, which is that thus far on this continent no human bones of undisputed geological antiquity are known. This must not be regarded as equivalent to a declaration that there was no early man in this country; it means only that if early man did exist in North America, convincing proof of the fact from the standpoint of physical anthropology still remains to be produced.

Referring particularly to the Nebraska "loess man," the mind searches in vain for solid ground on which to base an estimate of more than moderate antiquity for the Gilder Mound specimens. The evidence as a whole only strengthens the above conclusion, that the existence on this continent of a man of distinctly primitive type and of exceptional geological antiquity has not as yet been proved.

There may be discouragement in these repeated failures to obtain satisfactory evidence of man's antiquity in America, but there is in this also a stimulus to renewed, patient, careful, scientifically conducted and checked exploration; and, as Professor Barbour says in one of his papers on the Nebraska find, "the end to be attained is worth the energy to be expended." A satisfactory demonstration of the presence of a geologically ancient man on this continent would form an important link in the history of the American race, and of mankind in general. The Missouri and Mississippi drainage areas offer exceptional opportunities for the discovery of this link of humanity if such really exists.

T. C. C.